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Subject: Update - Coutts

RCMP called at 1558 with an update on this afternoon's developments. Around 1300, as they were preparing to engage in enforcement, they were approached by representatives of the group blocking the roadway indicating a desire to allow more trucks to leave, in exchange for access to supplies, etc.

Before that could be responded to, a good number of rigs left the area on their own volition. What is left now is in excess of 100 trucks, which continue to still block the roadway in both directions.

A new group of individuals have now approached the RCMP indicating they are now the core leadership group. They were significantly more cooperative and receptive to discussions than any who had been spoken to before, and had moved from the stance that there would be no intent by the protestors to allow the highway to be re-opened. They have expressed a desire to continue with a protest that does NOT block the highway. They indicated they were not aware that such an action could have been taken, as some of the others involved had been telling all not to speak with police.

RCMP advise that they are intent on seeing the highway re-opened today, and while they may be open to some form of visible protest on the side of the highway to remain for a short time period, they are prepared to engage in enforcement action should the protestors not comply with their requirements.

The RCMP indicate that those discussions are ongoing at this time.

Marlin

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